

THE BIRTH OF *ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS* AND A CENTURY OF EDITORS

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ABSTRACT: Circumstances leading to the establishment of *Entomological News* are recounted and the chronology of early editorships is traced. Three early entomologists, Drs. Skinner, Calvert, and Schmieder, combined, served as editors of *Entomological News* for 78 years of its 100 year history.

As has been previously published, most recently in the September-October 1984 issue of *Entomological News* that was devoted to the 125th anniversary of The American Entomological Society (Boyd, 1984), when The American Entomological Society reached agreement with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on December 17, 1875, to meet at and occupy quarters within the academy's building, a part of that agreement was that the members of the society would form and constitute the entomological section of the academy. Thus it was at a meeting of the Entomological Section of the Academy, on October 24, 1889, that Eugene M. Aaron moved that "this section shall, beginning with January 1890, publish its proceedings, and such short notes as may be offered, at or near the first of each month, that all matters pertaining to this journal be referred to the entire publication committee, with full powers". That publication committee consisted of Ezra T. Cresson, Charles A. Blake, and Benjamin H. Smith representing The American Entomological Society, and Henry Skinner and Philip Laurent representing the Entomological Section of the Academy.

At a subsequent meeting on November 28, 1889, the publication committee further considered the matter and decided that such a publication, if properly, wisely, and economically managed, could be maintained and could become a useful and valuable adjunct to both the section and the society. It was proposed and decided that this new publication would consist of at least 160 pages annually, to be published in ten monthly parts, except July and August, to be of uniform size with the *Transactions* of the society, with the title "*Entomological News and Proceedings of the Entomological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*". The subscription price was set at one dollar per annum but it was to be

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free to members and associates of the section. Expenses were to be met by receipts from subscriptions and advertisements plus whatever sum the section could appropriate from its funds, with the understanding that any deficit would be met by a contribution, not to exceed \$100 per annum, from the funds available to the publication committee of the society. This new publication was to be under the management of the joint publication committee of the section and the society and this joint committee would elect an editor and an advisory committee of four persons to conduct the publication. At this same November 28 meeting, Aaron was elected editor of the new journal to begin publication in January, 1890, E.T. Cresson was elected treasurer, and George H. Horn, E.T. Cresson, and Henry Skinner constituted the advisory committee. Dr. Horn moved that the section be asked to allow Philip P. Calvert to associate with them. Other interesting details concerning these two meetings and a third meeting on December 9, 1889, are reviewed under the title, "In Retrospect", in the July, and continued in the November, 1943 issues of *Entomological News* by Ezra T. Cresson, Jr. (Cresson, 1943).

In the lead announcement on pages 1-3 of the initial issue, Vol. I, No. 1, mailed on January 15, 1890, editor Aaron stated that "the Entomological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with the cooperation and financial aid of The American Entomological Society, have decided to publish, beginning with this number, a journal. . . ." From all of the above, it is clear that, although technically, at least on paper, *Entomological News* was initiated as an academy publication, in reality it actually was a joint operation of both the academy and the society. Certainly members of The American Entomological Society, most notably Philip P. Calvert, Ezra T. Cresson, George H. Horn and Henry Skinner accepted and executed major responsibilities and the society itself guaranteed at least part of the necessary financial backing for this new journal. This arrangement continued for the first 35 years that *Ent. News* was published, until the sectional organization of the academy was abolished in 1924, following which *Ent. News* officially became a wholly society publication without any formal announcement other than cover and masthead name changes.

Aaron's tenure as the journal's initial editor was very brief. He authored the announcement on pages 1-3 of Vol. I, No. 1, but he served as editor for only the first two issues, January and February 1890. Following this, Henry Skinner (M.D.) took over as editor for the March 1890 and subsequent issues. Even though Aaron apparently edited the first two

issues, the title or cover page for Vol. I, 1890, credits Henry Skinner as editor for the entire volume year.

Starting in May of 1892, Skinner wrote a series of interesting editorials, usually one to one and a half pages in length, most of which addressed pertinent entomological matters or issues of the day. His first editorial was entitled "Entomological Rubbish" and was on the subject of the proper and improper methods of pinning and mounting specimens, and on the proper sizes of pins. Another editorial, in the April 1893 issue, reviewed publication policies of the journal, such as the fact that *Entomological News* was for papers too short to be accepted in the *Transactions*, that papers should be limited to two printed pages, and that papers would be printed in the order in which they were received, policies that, except for the two page limitation, are still in place today. In the September, 1982 issue, he editorialized humorously on the trials and tribulations of an editor processing poorly written manuscripts from authors.

Skinner continued as editor until he resigned on October 12, 1910, to become effective December 15, 1910, he thus having served, according to his own statement, a total of 21 years. His letter of resignation was published in Vol. XXI, No. 1, January, 1911 issue of *Entomological News*. He then was appointed editor emeritus and Philip P. Calvert, who had served as associate editor since January, 1893, was appointed editor and Ezra T. Cresson, Jr. associate editor. Skinner continued as editor emeritus until his death, at age 65, on May 29, 1926. Skinner justifiably believed that during his tenure as editor, *Entomological News* had weathered its "nursery period" and had come "of age". Without question, Skinner set the stage for the future success of the journal and was the first of three outstanding editors to have served *Entomological News* over its long history.

The second of the early editorial giants was Philip P. Calvert who served as editor of *Entomological News* for 33 years, much longer than any other editor in its history. Having served as associate editor from 1893 to 1910, and then as editor from 1911 to 1943, a total of 51 years, no other individual contributed so much to the long term success of *Entomological News*. When he resigned his editorship, it was stated that for 33 years he had "been seasoning the *News* with his own particular flavor which in terms of the kitchen we might describe as well salted, with a judicious use of pepper. The pepper may have caused an eye to smart now and again but we think the consensus of opinion is that the flavor has been agreeable." (*Ent. News*, 1944 LV (1) pg. 2)

It was during his tenure as editor that *Entomological News* officially became a publication of The American Entomological Society, in 1925, upon the dissolution of the sectional organization of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in 1924. Dr. Calvert submitted his resignation as editor on September 29, 1943 and this was accepted on October 28, 1943, at which time he was elected editor emeritus (see *Ent. News*, Vol. LV, No. 1, January 1944). He continued as editor emeritus until his death, at age 90, on August 23, 1961.

Following the resignation of Dr. Calvert as editor, it is no wonder that, apparently, no one was willing to try to step into his shoes so, beginning in January 1944, the publication committee of the society decided to continue the editorship in the hands of the editorial board and named A. Glenn Richards and Rudolph G. Schmieder as co-editors. However, the masthead for all issues of the journal for the next three years, from January 1944 through December 1946, carried the name of Dr. Calvert as editor emeritus, followed by a mere listing, in alphabetical order, of E.T. Cresson, Jr., E.J.F. Marx, J.A.G. Rehn, A.G. Richards, and R.G. Schmieder as members of the editorial staff without the designation of any individual(s) as actual editor(s) or co-editor(s). In contradiction to this, however, in a memorial biography of Dr. Schmieder, published in the March 1968 issue of *Entomological News*, Schmieder is credited with having been editor beginning in 1945. In any event, beginning with the January 1947 issue, without any textual announcement, the name of Rudolph G. Schmieder appears as editor of *Entomological News*.

Dr. Schmieder was the third and last of the three early giants in the editorship history of *Entomological News*. Between the three of them, Skinner, Calvert, and Schmieder, they covered and accounted for 78 of the current 100 year editorial history of the journal. As stated in his memorial biography, Schmieder's "greatest service to the society lay in his meticulous editing of the *News* for many years, with no return except the personal satisfaction of a somewhat onerous task well done". He continued to serve as editor right up until his sudden passing, at age 69, on August 23, 1967.

Editorship since the passing of Dr. Schmieder is modern history and needs no elaboration. Subsequent editors have been Ross H. Arnett, Jr., Robert W. Lake, and Howard P. Boyd. These are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Editors of *Entomological News*

Editor	Tenure ^a	Period ^a
Aaron	1890 (Jan. & Feb.) (#'s 1 & 2)	2 mos.
Skinner	1890 - 1910	20 yrs., 10 mos. or 21 yrs.
Calvert	1911 - 1943	33 yrs.
Editorial staff with Richards & Schmieder as co-editors	1944 only or 1944 - 1946	1 yr. or 3 yrs.
Schmieder	1945 or 1947 - 8/1967	24 yrs., 10 mos or 22 yrs., 10 mos.
Arnett	11/1967 - 8/1972	5 yrs., 2 mos.
Lake	1973 - 4/1974	1 yr., 4 mos.
Boyd	5/1974 - present	15 yrs., 8 mos. (to date)

^aAvailable records often do not agree on exact dates.

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